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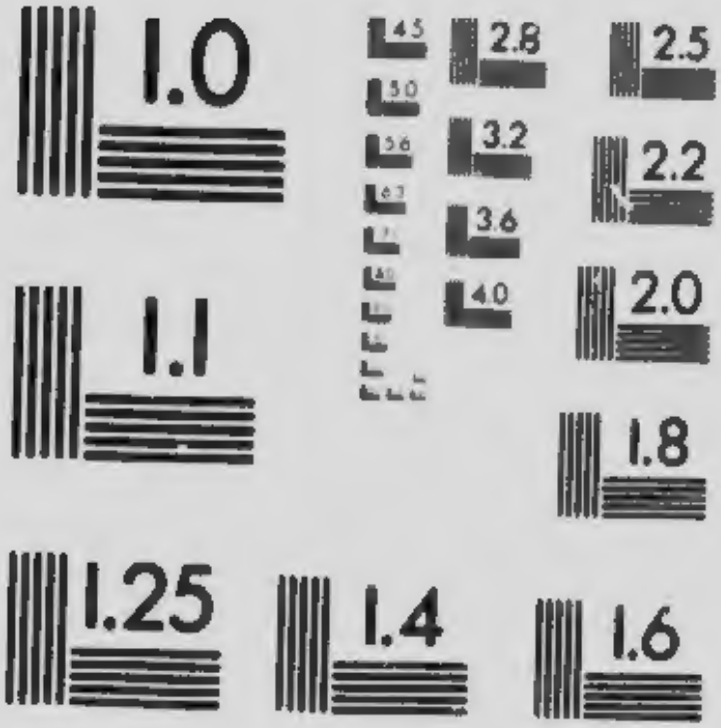

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THE

Pike

~~J. ROSS ROBERTSON~~

Collection

Ornithological Collection

drawings

or water colours

IN THE

PUBLIC LIBRARY

TORONTO, ONTARIO

PRESENTED TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE LIBRARY.
BY J. ROSS ROBERTSON, 29th JANUARY, 1917.

TORONTO,
1917

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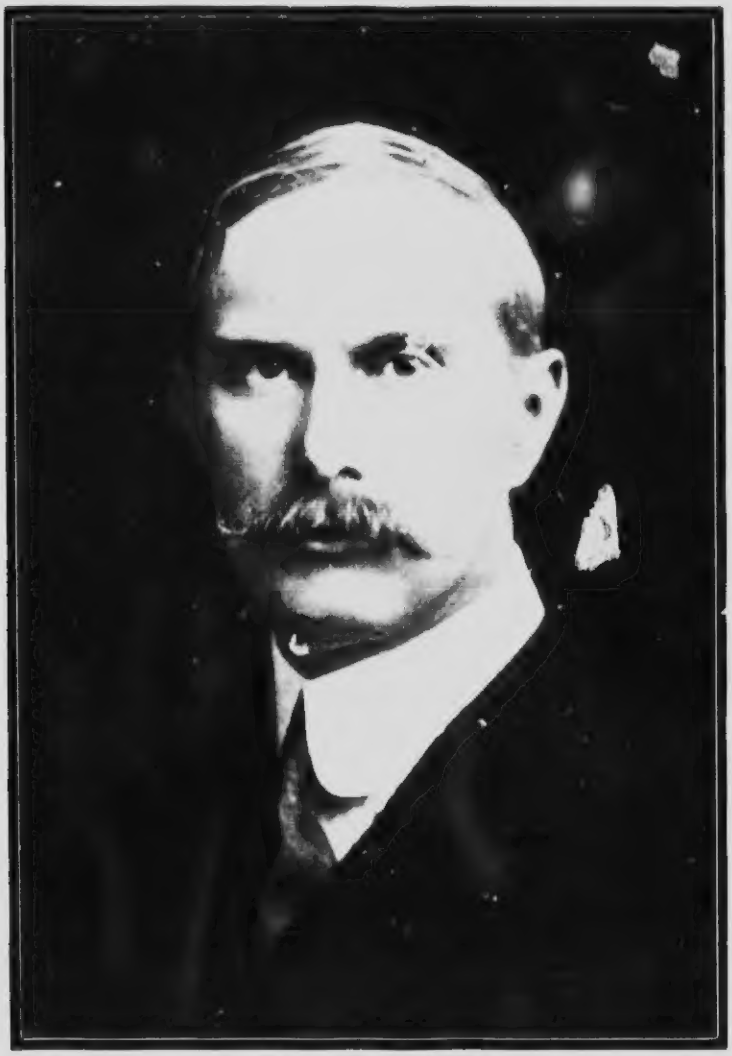
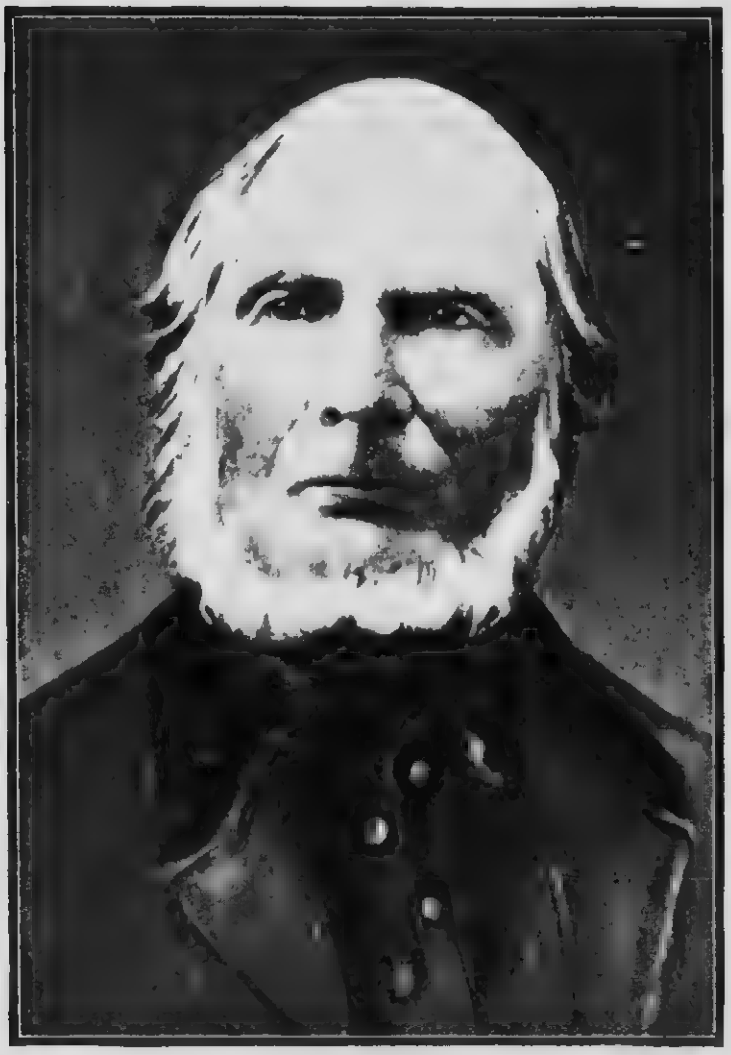
JOHN TURNBULL,
Chairman Board of Management, Toronto Public Library, 1917.

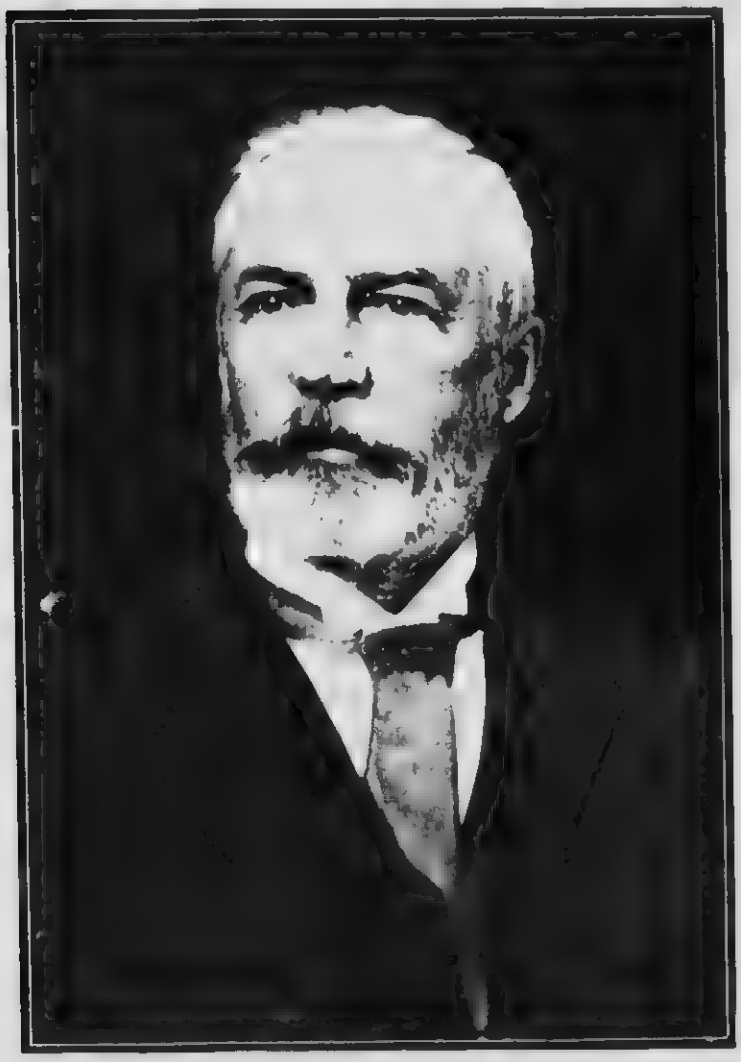
NORMAN H. GASH, K.C
Chairman Board of Management, Toronto Public Library, 1916.



GEORGE H. LOCKE,
Chief Librarian, Toronto Public Library.



WM. POPE, 1811-1902.
Artist and Naturalist.
The drawings in this collection were made by Mr. Pope who lived at Port Rowan, Ont., between 1830-58.



C. W. NASH.
Biologist Ontario Provincial Museum, Toronto

J. ROSS ROBERTSON,
of Toronto.

THE J. ROSS ROBERTSON ORNITHOLOGICAL COLLECTION.

Upper Art Room, Public Library, Toronto.

The view shows half of the west and north sides of both the outer and inner rooms occupied by the collection. The east side is not shown. The photo was taken from the larger or outer room showing the smaller room in the distance.

THE J. ROSS ROBERTSON ORNITHOLOGICAL COLLECTION.

Upper Art Room, Public Library, Toronto.

The view shows the west and northwest sides of the inner or smaller room occupied by the collection. The photo was taken in the room. The east side of the room, with its pictures, is not shown

THE J. ROSS ROBERTSON ORNITHOLOGICAL COLLECTION.

Upper Art Room, Public Library, Toronto.

[illegible] showing the south and west side. The east side with its pedimen[illegible] [illegible] Floor are 226 wal[illegible] cases in the centre

THE ROBERTSON COLLECTION

EXTRACT FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF LIBRARIAN FOR THE YEAR 1916

The J. Ross Robertson Historical Collection has completely filled the Historical Room, and the collection of Canadian prints must now cease. This matter was brought to the attention of the Board in my report of last year as a possibility which needed to be considered. It is no longer a theory; it is now a condition to be faced. Mr. Robertson has his great catalogue ready and in it are recorded and described at some length 3,600 Canadian prints illustrating early Canadian life, customs and events, all of which through his munificence are now the property of this Public Library Board.

During the year Mr. Robertson acquired a collection of water colors depicting early bird life in the Province of Ontario. These were made by William Pope, a native of Maidstone, Kent, England, who spent the greater part of his life in Western Ontario. That these might be preserved as a record of the bird life of our Province in the early days, Mr. Robertson had these pictures framed and has given them to the Public Library as a nucleus of an Ornithological Collection. They were submitted to the Biologist of the Provincial Government, Mr. C. W. Nash, who consented to edit the catalogue and who said of the collection that "these are among the best illustrations of birds I have ever seen."

In fulfilment of his promise that when suitable provision would be made for the preservation of maps he would be glad to add to our collection, Mr. J. Ross Robertson presented to the Public Reference Library his Collection of Canadian Maps. Of the value of this I prefer to speak in a subsequent report, when we shall have completed our catalogue. In the meantime this gift should be acknowledged, and its value may be surmised when I mention that many of the maps are unique, the only copies known, and especially is the Collection rich in local maps. For instance, maps of early Toronto in the municipal archives are copies of the ones in this the J. Ross Robertson Map Collection.

And what of all these gifts of Mr. Robertson which every day prove useful to the investigator, to the author, to the publisher (for no book on Canada can be illustrated properly without reference to the Historical Collection), to the municipality and the law courts (in the Map Collection), and apart from all this so-called practical side, the pleasure of seeing pictorially represented the growth of Canada! These gifts should be properly housed so that they will be more readily available and enjoyable than they are at present. In my report for last year I suggested a plan for a modern Historical Art Gallery commemorating Mr. Robertson's generosity and adequately housing his gifts. With the added experience of the present year's gifts I have gone over the situation carefully and repeat my suggestion of last year. It was that the present Reference Library building be extended to the north on St. George Street, the upper storey being constructed in the most approved style of a modern Historical Art Gallery, where the Collection could be placed and room for expansion could be provided by the connection with the upper storey of our present building. The lower storeys of this new building would provide for a Children's Room, a Circulating Library and Reading Rooms, the problem that will face us within two years, when the present College Street Circulating Room will be filled with books and the Reading Room will have to be given up."

OPINIONS OF DISTINGUISHED ORNITHOLOGISTS

Mr. C. W. Nash, the well-informed Biologist of the Provincial Museum of Ontario, who kindly prepared the inscriptions for these pictures, in giving his opinion of the collection, writes

"The drawings of Canadian birds, made by Mr. Pope, and presented by Mr. J. Ross Robertson to the Public Library, of the City of Toronto, will rank among the best work of this class ever done. The coloration of the plumage in most of them is remarkable for its accuracy and the attitude of the subject is in all cases natural and characteristic of the species delineated.

Lovers of art and naturalists will find pleasure and profit in studying these pictures, which not only faithfully portray the birds themselves but also sufficient of the natural habitat of each species to show where it may be expected to be found in life

"The citizens of Toronto have every reason to be grateful to Mr Robertson for the public spirit he has shown in purchasing and presenting to the city this beautiful collection of drawings"

Mr. James H. Fleming, of Toronto, a recognized and widely-known authority on ornithology, who has the most complete private collection in Canada, after carefully examining the work of Mr. Pope, writes

"It has been my privilege to examine the Pope drawings, and where necessary to compare them with the bird or animal they represent, and I have been struck with the accuracy in drawing and coloring; in fact, they would have brought fame to the artist had they been published at the early date they were made. To the naturalist they serve as an invaluable record of the fauna of the Lake Erie region at a time when the country was still covered by its original forest. Not only are the birds and animals shown, but the backgrounds often have details that the botanist will find of interest. Toronto has reason to be grateful to Mr J. Ross Robertson for the presentation of this unique collection of drawings"

WILLIAM POPE, 1811-1902

Mr. William Pope, the artist of the water colors in this collection, was a very interesting man He was born in Maidstone, Kent., Eng.; educated there and at Sevenoaks, Kent. In 1834 he made his first voyage to America, travelled extensively in the States; remained for a time in western Ontario, and then returned to England. He again came to Canada in 1842. Several visits were made to the old land up to 1859, when Mr. Pope determined to settle permanently in Canada, and for more than forty years lived near Port Ryerse, Norfolk County. He took no active interest in public affairs, but remained a persistent student of nature. His work for the most part consists of a combination of pen and ink and water color, the pen being used chiefly to outline the detail in the plumage of the bird or hair of the animal In addition to these drawings, which are rivalled only by nature, Mr. Pope wrote much that is of interest on the life and habits of his subjects. His portrait is in the collection

NOTE BY MR. GEORGE H. LOCKE CHIEF LIBRARIAN OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The following introduction was written by Mr. Locke and inserted as a preface to this elaborate catalogue issued by the Library on the day that the J. Ross Robertson Ornithological Collection in the upper art rooms was opened to the public, and will be read with interest as it refers not only to this collection of bird pictures, but to the J. Ross Robertson Historical Collection, which is in the art room on the first floor of the Library Building

After years of prosperity and wastefulness our country became aroused and even then only partially —to the necessity for conservation of its resources. Then Conservation Commissions were appointed and the country settled back to the customary attitude of complacency that the subject had been recognized and settled. They were material needs that moved our people to this consideration, and these seem to be the only impelling forces which can move governments. It is left to private individuals to conserve and make available and useful the resources of our country which make for enjoyment, happiness and larger education. In Toronto this is especially true, and perhaps one of the most noteworthy illustrations is the Collection of Historical Pictures (now 3,600 in number) which show the evolution of our Dominion. These, presented by Mr. J Ross Robertson to the people of Canada through the Public Library Board of Toronto, have awakened interest in the early history of our country and given genuine pleasure to thousands of people. It is now nearly five years since this Historical Collection was opened, and during that time it has been visited by over 50,000 people

The interest shown by the boys and girls in this historical work was so pleasing to Mr. Robertson that when he had the opportunity of purchasing a wonderful Collection of Illustrations of Early Bird Life of our Province he undertook it, partly on account of its historical interest, which is ever present in his mind, and partly because he believed that a sympathetic acquaintance with birds and their habits would interest boys and girls and lead to the preservation of this interesting and beautiful part of our life, which has been too often injured and sometimes entirely destroyed by a thoughtless and even cruel mankind. We cannot do much with adults, but we can develop in boys and girls a sympathetic attitude towards the birds, and in no way better than with an historical background

This is, therefore, a decided step towards the Conservation of the Bird Life of our Province, and it is intended to be a nucleus of a Provincial Ornithological Collection housed in the great public building which is the community centre, as far as there can be such a thing in a large city

GEORGE H LOCKE

Public Library, Jan 29th, 1917

THE J. ROSS ROBERTSON

ORNITHOLOGICAL COLLECTION

PRESENTED TO THE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD, TORONTO.

On Monday evening, 29th January, 1917, a very interesting event took place in the Upper Art Rooms of the Public Library, College street. In the presence of a large audience of ladies and gentlemen, all of whom are interested in the study of bird life, the presentation was made to the board by Mr J. Ross Robertson of the collection of water colors of Canadian birds made many years ago by the late William Pope, of Port Rverse, Ont.

The audience of bird lovers were delighted with the half hour's view they had of the pictures before the proceedings opened, and were deeply interested in the addresses delivered when the presentation was made

Mr. N. B. Gash, K.C., who presided, said:—

"Ladies and gentlemen: It is my pleasure to-night to preside over this meeting as chairman of the Public Library Board for the current year Mr. J. Ross Robertson is a very familiar figure around the Toronto Public Library, and a very welcome one. He seldom appears but he leaves some trace of his appearance traces which we always delight to see because we know they mean much to the citizens of Toronto He has been before us several times There seems to be a peculiar coincidence in connection with Mr. Robertson and my chairmanship, for, in 1911, when I was chairman of the board, Mr. Robertson presented the nucleus of what is now known as the J. Ross Robertson Historical Collection, which is in the Art Room on the ground floor of the Library Building.

Since then he has been a very frequent visitor, and we have been the recipients of great treasures of art. The Historical Collection has been visited by upwards of fifty thousand visitors, including, I was going to say, some members of royalty, or very closely connected with the Royal Family. The collection, if you have not seen it, is well worth seeing, and everybody should make a point of visiting it. Such a one we have not in Canada to day except the collection downstairs. That collection is the pet of Mr. Robertson. He has been collecting it for forty years, and the results have been grand. I have heard of Mr. Robertson tracing up a Canadian picture, a print that had not been seen for seventy years, which he eventually landed and placed in the Historical Collection. When you consider that there are now 3,600 pictures downstairs you will perhaps appreciate the tremendous amount of research work Mr. Robertson has done.

"If this Ornithological Collection grows like the collection downstairs I don't know what we shall do to house it, and I am sure we will have to apologize to the public because this place does not do justice to the pictures. Perhaps Mr. Robertson may be gracious enough to present to us in a few years an art gallery especially designed to display to advantage such pictures as these, and such a gallery would be a credit to Toronto. Perhaps I have said more than I should, and possibly I

should have deterred my remarks until Mr. Robertson has made the presentation.

THE PRESENTATION

Mr. J. Ross Robertson said:

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen: As a general rule newspapermen are credited by the public with an ability to write and to discuss every subject that is to be found within the covers of an encyclopedia. But, let me assure you, my friends, that the newspapermen who might claim to be walking encyclopedias on ornithology are few and far between, and I say this after nearly sixty years of active newspaper work.

I make this reference to a newspaperman's stock of knowledge as I look around this room and see its collection. I don't want to dwell on the valuable work of the press but after the cross-examination I have gone through since the invitations went out I have come to the conclusion that there are only one or two men in newspaper work in this city that can be trusted to write an interesting article on bird collections. Of course, I always except in any remarks of this kind my friend Mr. Sam T. Wood, the noted nature writer of the Toronto Globe, to whom it is a pleasure to talk, and who has been most commendatory regarding the collection which we are opening this evening.

I have tried in the room downstairs to rescue from oblivion the whole early life of old Upper and Lower Canada—now Ontario and Quebec—away back to the days of Champlain and other of the early explorers. I have given you in picture form the Indian villages and many of the pioneer settlements and towns that existed over a hundred and fifty years ago.

"I have shown you the faces and figures of the aboriginal leaders of the Canadian people and of the pioneers and settlers who turned the first furrows in the two great mother provinces that are now Ontario and Quebec. In connection with the Canadian historical pictures in the room downstairs I may have some knowledge of the historical value, the art value, and probably the money value, but I am free to confess that I am sadly lacking in knowledge of ornithology and all that it means.

But, in order that you may be compensated for my lack of knowledge, I have secured the presence of Mr. C. W. Nash, biologist of the Ontario Government; Mr. Sam T. Wood, to whom I have already referred, and Dr. C. K. Clarke, who has taken a deep interest all his life in promoting the study of bird life in every form, and these gentlemen will say a few words to say to you.

"I just want to say that when these pictures were brought to my attention by Mr. Owen Staples, the eminent Canadian artist, whose excellent work is to be found in the hundreds of pictures in the Historical Room, I felt that these pictures should have a permanent home, and when my friend Mr. J. H. Fleming, a very high authority, after a full day's examination of the pictures, told me that many were not only equal to, but better than, Audubon's work, I recognized the value of the work you see in these frames. And, when Mr. Fleming said that it would be a crime to allow these pictures to leave the country, I made up my mind that they should remain with us, and acquired them. (Applause.)

"Mr. William Pope, who made the drawings, was an English gentleman sportsman, fond of shooting birds and game, and spent about forty years in the vicinity of Port Rowan, Norfolk County. He was an excellent artist and made these drawings in color from nature. The Historical Collection in the room downstairs would not complete the circle of this country's early history without the Ornithological Collection in this room.

"This collection is a great segment in that circle. I have not studied natural history as I have tried to study other varieties of history. I realize, and you realize, that there were birds in this province before there were Indians—not to mention pioneers and early settlers.

"I trust that this collection, which I now present to your board, will forever remain representative of the olden times, when Ontario was full of forests, and the forests were full of birds."

THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE GIFT

Mr. Gasler: "Mr. Robertson, I am sure it affords me great pleasure, on behalf of the Public Library Board and on behalf of the citizens of Toronto, possibly we may say even the province of Ontario, and Canada at large, to express sincere thanks for the beautiful Ornithological Collection. I don't pretend to be a naturalist myself. We have a number here, however, perhaps not pretending to be, but are, and who we will be delighted to hear from as to the merits of this collection. We all know that the collection will become the nucleus of something even greater than it is now, and we sincerely thank Mr. Robertson for this collection. Now we shall hear from Mr. Nash, the provincial biologist, of whom Mr. Robertson has spoken, and who has expert knowledge of this collection."

Mr. C. W. Nash said:

"Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen: In travelling through this country and this province of ours, the other provinces and the States, I very frequently meet philosophers and scholars who don't love Toronto and these people will usually make remarks not very complimentary about conditions of affairs in Toronto. They say, 'You, people with nearly half a million population—what do you ever do for science, art and literature? Have you no public spirited citizens among you? You boast you are the wealthiest place in the province why do you not do something to show it?'

"'Why, I reply 'on every corner we have a church to save you people because we think you need them we don't.'

"'Yes, that emphasizes your goodness, but do you take any interest in science, art or literature?'

"I am sorry to say we have very few gentlemen who take an interest in science and literature, but we can always put our hand on Mr. J. Ross Robertson; whatever he undertakes he does well. It is unnecessary for me to recall to you the many good works he has done. Is not he in evidence in everything that is of merit? But of late especially he has turned his attention to one of the greatest of his endeavors, the perpetuation of the memories of older Canada. He has delved into the history of Canada and its people deeper than any man in the country. He is most untiring [illegible]

I flatter [illegible] was young I [illegible] follow [illegible] to get it. But [illegible] Mr. Robertson the first mention of an early picture or anything else in the Canadian historical line, he will get it. (Applause.)

And, furthermore, let me tell you that he not only exerts himself but he exhausts the last scrap of patience of every one of his friends, in his efforts to hunt down his game. That is the kind of a man he is. He has called your attention to-night to the fact that he considers this collection of pictures a very important segment in the history of Canada. When I look back fifty years to the time I first saw Ontario, and remember the vast numbers of wild fowl to be found everywhere then, and go over the same old ground to-day and see absolutely none, there is no doubt it is important that we should have some such record as this of bird life to be found formerly in the province, for the people of to-day must go to museums and picture galleries to see what such historical birds as the passenger pigeon and wild turkey were like, for unfortunately these are now extinct, and other equally interesting forms are also becoming extinct. I am sorry to say that death and extinction have almost invariably followed the white man in America. This is just as much true in Canada as on the other side, and unless some method of perpetuation is decided upon, we shall lose sight of these birds entirely.

"As I look at the pictures of the ducks, I remember when in Toronto

Bay, Ashbridge's Bay and Burlington Bay, and all the bays on Lake Ontario, we would see countless myriads. Last summer I spent on the Island, and I don't think I saw a dozen ducks from the beginning of June until the end of November, and not more than one hundred shore birds.

"Mr. Robertson's gift is very apropos just now, because the people of the country generally are beginning to realize that the birds are an economic factor in agriculture. They have been forced to realize it largely because of the enormous losses sustained through insect pests. This awakening just now is partly because so much interest has been aroused in bird life, and also because we are urged on every hand to greater food production. That, we understand, is due to the war. We can't all go to the front and fight I am sorry to say. We can't all work on farms and actually produce something, but we can all do something towards conservation and we can assist in conserving our crops by protecting our birds. That, everybody can do, and to do it you don't need to bind yourself to any society, you don't need to spend any money; all you need to do is to prevent careless people from destroying birds. The birds will protect the crops and there will be more to feed our troops with and greater wealth coming into the country. Let me speak for a moment of the artistic value of these pictures. No artist, I suppose, acknowledges he cannot draw a bird. Now, I very seldom have seen a mere artist that could draw a bird so that a naturalist would be satisfied with it. He may draw the outward form, but there are little characteristics that the mere artist doesn't recognize.

"The naturalist recognizes these so clearly that even if he can't see the plumage at a distance, he will say that is so and so. He recognizes the species by its pose and actions. Mr. Pope has to a marvellous degree just caught the characteristics of each species, and it is quite possible for any man who knows birds to recognize them in the same way. Then, again, in a great many cases you will read part of the history of the bird in the picture, so that you can say that bird is of the uplands or of the marshes or whatever its haunts may be.

"There before you is the Pileated woodpecker. Years ago I remember that these birds were common, even in Southern Ontario. The last pair I saw south of Muskoka was, I think, about thirty-six years ago, not very far from Hagersville, on the Indian reserve there. I ave seen them in Norfolk and Middlesex Counties, but to-day they are gone. They are birds of the big timber, and the bush is so far cleared now that they can't find enough to suit their fastidious taste. They are noisy birds and every man who goes into the bush deer hunting or shooting game, if he has a gun or rifle, seems to think he must shoot the specimen he sees. That is one reason why so many of our larger birds have become extremely rare.

"Perhaps when this collection has been better studied, when people have been induced to take an interest in birds through seeing this collection, they will learn how much better it is that the bird should be in the bush instead of in the hand."

Dr. C. K. Clarke, president of the Canadian Society for the Protection of Birds, said:

"Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen: It has been a very great pleasure to come here this evening, and if the newspaperman has been regarded as an encyclopedia it is very largely owing to Mr. J. Ross Robertson, who has brought himself to be such an encyclopedia in connection with everything Canadian.

"I have always been a little suspicious of bird pictures since hearing so many references to Audubon's pictures, and I came here in rather a skeptical humor in regard to this collection. In many cases these pictures are, in my opinion, much better than Audubons I have seen, and many of them are little art gems. I have been suspicious that Audubon's pictures had been tainted by the fact that he was a dancing master in his time, and many of the poses seem to indicate that dancing

lessons were still in his mind when painting the birds; not that I want to detract from Audubon, who was perhaps the greatest ornithologist the world has ever known.

"Now, the most remarkable rara avis is not to be found in this part of the collection, but it is right here in Mr. J. Ross Robertson himself. What has he not unearthed at one time or other in the way of anything in the picture or any other line that you might mention, from the latest political scandal right up to the most valuable print? He always gets after them, and when he gets after them he always gets them.

"He asked me not to mention him, but I am going to. He never consults me in his conduct of The Telegram, and I am not going to consult him when I choose to say things I wish about him. But there is no one in the community who occupies the same position as J. Ross Robertson, and we all love him. Whether as a public benefactor or intelligent collector, we have to hand the palm to him every time.

"In this building the collection downstairs would be glory enough for any man, but Mr. Robertson is not an ordinary man, but an extraordinary man in every sense of the term. I don't know if you appreciate what he has done. There are several Audubon collections, but there is only one Pope collection, and we have the honor of feeling that it is in this building and is preserved for all time to come in Canada, and I am glad to take part in the presentation to-night."

Mr. George H. Locke, the Chief Librarian, said:

"Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen: I prepared the programme for the evening, and I am not on it. Therefore, it was wrong to call upon me. Now, I was thinking all the time I was looking at the birds that if I ever had the chance I would make the remark Dr. Clarke has made. Mr. Robertson is a rara avis. I know more about Mr. Robertson now than I did five years ago, and I am sure it would be interesting to all the audience for me to tell you about him. Mr. Robertson always comes up with an air of discovery upon him. He will have slight traces of something paized in the early history of Ontario, and would I please follow that up while he follows up on the other side. And so we set out and we get the result.

"There are several things that have not been spoken of to-night, for all of which Mr. Robertson is responsible. There is his map and plan collection one of great value, for it contains every map and plan of Toronto from the beginnings of Little York in 1792 down to the present time. There are a hundred of these plans, and it is the only complete collection in existence. The City Hall people have to come to the library to see these plans, for very few of them are in existence at the City Hall. I hope to see the time when this collection and the Historical Collection will be housed in a gallery that will be a great centre for the whole of our Dominion. We must have art rooms, for the Historical Room has now 3,600 pictures, and the overflow has to go into these rooms which have not room for over another five hundred.

Mr. G. H. Corsan, a director of the Canadian Society for the Protection of Birds, said: "Mr. Chairman, Mr. Robertson, ladies and gentlemen: As you perhaps know, I travel all over the United States, and I have a chance to see what is being done, and I would like to at least put a proposal before this gathering to-night. We have to the west of the city a magnificent pond or little lake known as Grenadier Pond. Now, this is one of the finest places for a collection of water-fowl that I know of in any city in North America. By the introduction of a few pairs we could get the place covered. It is surprising how quickly water-fowl find they are becoming protected, and in a short time Grenadier Pond would prove a veritable haven.

"I visited Jack Miner's farm, and I never saw a cleaner pond made out of an old mud field. He has thousands of geese coming down at his call when they are going from

Florida to Alaska and they fill the place so full you can't see it. It was only a mud field, and hardly anything there but the handfuls of corn he threw out.

"Not long ago some people came before the City Council asking permission to shoot wild duck in the bay. Why, I would just as soon shoot a horse on the street as go out there and shoot a duck.

"Is there anything more contemptible than a bird that will not make a noise? I have in mind the 'mute' swans and my hobby to preserve the much more interesting native trumpeter swans? I have wild geese sleeping right beside me all night, and every once in a while they talk to me. They never put their head under cover, but shelter it under their wing. When I get up in the morning they come right up to me. One big fellow comes up to me and talks to me. They are the most intelligent birds in the world.

"This collection is the greatest ever. It's a great prize for the Public Library. The one downstairs is magnificent, and Mr. Robertson deserves the thanks of all Canadians, not only for what he has done in preserving the historical prints and engravings from the days of early explorers, but for the unique gift we see on this wall. He should never be forgotten for these good works."

Mr. Samuel Wood said: "Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen: I almost wish that Mr. J. Ross Robertson had left that general statement he made with regard to newspapermen without mentioning any exception. However, I am glad to add to the thanks already expressed this evening for the latest debt the people of Toronto and the people of Ontario owe to Mr. J. Ross Robertson. It would really have been a misfortune had this collection been destroyed as so many collections have been. And to thanks to Mr. Locke, and to those men who have provided the University museum, any man who has a collection in any field can now rest assured that it will be well taken care of, and it will serve a useful purpose in the University museum. It is a splendid thing that this collection has been secured.

"We must remember that Audubon had to build a foundation. Ornithologists of the present day have this foundation as a lesson. The work of collecting has been done. There is scarcely any fresh information for the collector. The knowledge can be secured by reading. There is a special trick of getting the birds on canvas, and Mr. Pope has had the advantage of Audubon's collection, and he has certainly improved on a great many. These pictures will show what work has been done. However, I think all ornithologists will appreciate what work has been done by these pictures."

Mr. Gash—"I think most of us know more about these specimens now than we did when we entered. In order to have a further opportunity of seeing them we propose to adjourn now. In a few minutes we will adjourn to the downstairs collection for half an hour, so that you can see some of the latest additions."

Adjournment was made to the Historical Collection on the first floor, where Mr. Robertson personally conducted those present through the gallery, briefly describing many of the pictures.